

Senator Jon Sonju, Chairman  
Senate Local Government Committee

Senator Art Wittich, Vice Chairman  
Senate Local Government Committee

Senate Local Government Committee Members: Senator Alan Olson, Senator Bruce Tutvedt, Senator Shannon Augare, Senator Steve Gallus, Senator Lynda Moss and Senator Gene Vuckovich

For those of us who live in Lincoln County Senate Bill # 117 is a tool we urgently need. As you may or may not know, federal and state-managed lands make up over eighty percent of the area of Lincoln County. Moreover, the county's economy is affected by changes on federal, state and private lands. State and federal agencies are charged by law with governing state and federal lands inside Lincoln County's political boundary in the best interest of all the citizens. Local, state and federal planning decisions may create benefits for a great many state and national citizens outside the county, but may transfer a disproportionate amount of the costs and responsibilities to local communities and citizens.

We believe that the American concept of government of the people, by the people and for the "people" is best served when government affairs are conducted as close to the people of Lincoln County as possible (i.e. at the county level). Because a large area of the county is managed by either the federal or the state government, and because the use and management of that land has substantial and significant impact on the economic stability of Lincoln County the citizens of Lincoln County are therefore legitimately interested in fully participating in the planning process utilized by federal and state agencies for determining and implementing land use plans and other actions in Lincoln County. We are legitimately interested in fully participating in the planning process utilized by federal and state agencies for determining and implementing land use plans and other actions in Lincoln County. Senate Bill # 117 would be such a tool to help us.

We ask that you help us and support and pass Senate Bill #117.

Sincerely,  
D.A. Shkursky  
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